Little or no surface residue. Few roots in soil. Bare ground. Signs of severe wind streess or wind. Little or no sign of insects, worms, etc. Crops will quickly after water and/or wind. Little or no sign of insects, worms, etc. Loops tolerate droughty conditions or very low water holding capacity. Crops tolerate droughty conditions or very low water holding capacity. Crops will quickly after water holding capacity. Crops tolerate droughty conditions or very low water holding capacity. Crops tolerate droughty conditions or very low water holding capacity. Crops tolerate droughty conditions capacity.	Indicator
Little or no sign of insects, worms, and sign of insects, and sign of insects.	noisonal lioo Poog (evo ybey) physical Activity - Mundo
Little or no surface residue, Few Moderate surface and control after control after wind stress or soil movement by water and/or movement by water and/or movement by water and/or movement by water and/or movement by water by water and/or movement	noizor∃ lio2
Little or no surface residue. Few residue, moderate Dense roots, tunnels of residue Dense roots, tunnels of residu	fo
LIMOIG	cinegaO lioS Teather Matter (a) Publiser (b) Instituted (b) Instituted (c) Instit
WILLIE, IIUTI UIAV OI TEU.	Surface Soil
Hard pan stops roots, roots grow thre flag into soil. Crusting is probe or wire flag into soil. Crusting is soil crusting.	Log Soil Compaction Log
Hard with no surface residue. Powder when dry, crusts easily grid is a hard rain. Large, hard to prepare seed bed. Difficult to work. Ped. Difficult to work. Crumbly, mellow or loomy and easily worked. Some visible crumbly, mellow or loomy and easily worked.	Too dry for planting
or 5 10 Observations	abell Indicator

What is soil quality and soil health?

A healthy environment begins with soil quality. When soil is at its best it can absorb and hold moisture, supports plant and animal life, and helps purify the air by storing CO₂ in the soil (carbon sequestration) which helps the environment by giving cleaner air.

How to improve Soil Health.

Any activity to the soil affects the soil quality. Especially, in the management practice we choose on our land. Conservation Tillage Practices (No-till/Strip-till and Ridge-till) along with crop rotation, pest and nutrient management, and soil testing help produce better soil health.

In addition, leaving residue (organic matter) on the soil surface each year (at least 2 to 4 tons/acre/ year) helps build up the organic layer. By building up the organic layer helps to supply crops with more nutrients and holds more moisture in the soil which helps to produce a better yield.

The Soil Quality Card

The advantages of using the soil quality card helps you evaluate the changes in soil quality as affected by management practices.

The regular use of the Soil Quality Card allows you to record long-term improvements from your management practices.

Recommendations

- Evaluate soil health every 2-3 years in the same locations evaluations were made in previous years (by the same
- Evaluate several places in each field.
- Soil Testing every 3-5 years.
- Evaluate soil structure after rainfall or irrigation events.
- Measure soil compaction in the Spring when plants about 10" tall.
- Evaluate Soil Erosion after harvest and during high-wind periods or after heavy



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Colorado Soil Quality Card



Topsoil: largely mineral soil developed from parent material; organic matter

leached from above gives this horizon

Subsoil: accumulation of mineral particles, such as clay and salts leached from topsoil; distinguished

based on color, structure, and kind of material accumulated from leaching

Unconsolidated material derived from

the original parent material from which

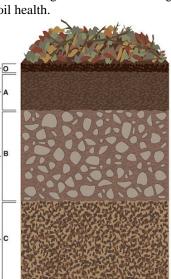
such as dead leaves

a distinctive dark color

The soil quality card is a tool to after management practices.

Regular use will assist in understanding current soil quality conditions. For best results take several samples in the same field.

Evaluation scores do not represent absolute measures or values, but provides a guide in understanding soil health.



assist the landowner in assessing the health of their soil before and

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